



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Pennsylvania's July 1, 2006 Crop Forecast

HARRISBURG, PA, July 12, 2006 - - - Based on July 1, 2006 forecast for yield and production, the Keystone state's farmers expect to produce more oats, barley, and peaches this year, while production of winter wheat is expected to decline. Pennsylvania's 2006 planted potato acreage is down 500 acres from last year.

Oat acreage for grain, at 110,000, is unchanged from last year's harvested acres. The July 1, 2006 oat yield is forecast at 60 bushels per acre, 5 bushels per acre above the final yield of 2005. If realized, the resulting oat production of 6.60 million bushels will be up 9 percent from last year. Winter wheat acres to be harvested for grain are expected to total 150,000, up 5,000 acres from last year. The July 1, 2006 winter wheat yield forecast is set at 51.0 bushels per acre, which is unchanged from the June 1 projected yield, but 3 bushels per acre below last year's final yield. The resulting winter wheat production of 7.65 million bushels will be down 2 percent from last year's production of 7.83 million bushels. Barley acreage for grain at 48,000, is up 1,000 acres from 2005. Barley yield is expected to be 74.0 bushels per acre this year for an expected production of 3.552 million bushels. This production is up 5 percent from last year's production of 3.384 million bushels.

Fall potatoes were planted on 11,000 acres this year, down 4 percent from last year. Harvest is expected from 10,800 acres, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Peach production in Pennsylvania is expected to be 29.5 million tons. This is up 11 percent from 2005.

At the United States level, oat production is forecast at 110 million bushels, 4 percent below last year's 115 million bushels. If realized, this would be the lowest oat production on record. The expected yield for oats, forecast at 57.9 bushels per acre, is down 5.1 bushels from 2005. Growers expect to harvest 1.91 million acres for grain, up 5 percent from last year. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.28 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month but 15 percent below 2005. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.1 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushels from last month but down 3.3 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain totals 31.1 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2006, but down 8 percent from last year. Barley production for 2006 is forecast at 190 million bushels, 10 percent below 2005 and the lowest production since 1936. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 63.4 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last year. Area for harvest, at 2.99 million acres, is down 9 percent from 2005 and the lowest since 1885.

For the United States, fall potatoes were planted on 990,500 acres this year, up 2 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2004. Harvest is expected from 974,400 acres, up 3 percent from 2005 but 5 percent below 2 years ago. This increase is due in part to low ending stocks and higher prices.

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